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Regional cooperation

Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

Summary

The present addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields contains resolutions and decisions adopted at the regular sessions of the regional commissions in the first half of 2010: the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union convened the third session of the Joint Annual Meetings of the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the African Union Conference of Ministers of the Economy and Finance, in Lilongwe, Malawi, on 29 and 30 March 2010; the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific held its sixty-sixth session in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 13 to 19 May 2010; the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia held its twenty-sixth session in Beirut from 17 to 20 May 2010; and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean held its thirty-third session in Brasilia from 30 May to 1 June 2010. Full texts of the resolutions are available at http://www.un.org/regionalcommissions/sessions.html.

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Contents

		Page
I.	Matters calling for action by the Council	3
	A. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	3
	B. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	3
II.	Matters brought to the attention of the Council	13
	A. Economic Commission for Africa	13
	B. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	17
	C. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	21
	D. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	24

I. Matters calling for action by the Council

A. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

1. At its thirty-third session held in Brasilia from 30 May to 1 June 2010, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) recommended the following draft resolutions for adoption by the Council.

Venue of the thirty-fourth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind paragraph 15 of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as rules 1 and 2 of the rules of procedure of the Commission,

Considering the invitation of El Salvador to host the thirty-fourth session of the Commission,

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of El Salvador for its generous invitation;

2. *Notes* the acceptance by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of this invitation with pleasure;

3. *Endorses* the decision of the Commission to hold the thirty-fourth session in El Salvador in the first half of 2012.

B. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

2. At its twenty-sixth session, held in Beirut from 17 to 20 May 2010, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia approved the following draft resolution for adoption by the Council.

Upgrading the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Section for Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues to the level of a division and establishing a governmental committee on emerging issues and development in conflict settings[1]

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia at its twenty-sixth session, held in Beirut from 17 to 20 May 2010, of the resolution on upgrading the Section for Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues to the level of a division and establishing a governmental committee on emerging issues and development in conflict settings,

1. *Endorses* the resolution on upgrading the Section for Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues to the level of a division and establishing a governmental committee on emerging issues and development in conflict settings of the Economic

[1] A statement of programme budget implications will be submitted by the Secretariat for the Council's consideration of the present draft resolution.

and Social Commission for Western Asia, as set out in the annex to the present resolution.

Annex

Upgrading the Section for Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues to the level of a division and establishing a governmental committee on emerging issues and development in conflict settings

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Cognizant of the repercussions of successive conflicts in the region, in particular occupation and its negative impact on economic and social development in member countries, the importance of addressing that impact and adopting an approach that takes into account the realities of the region in solving development problems,

Emphasizing the need to sustain economic and social development efforts in all circumstances, in particular under conditions of crisis and occupation, as economic and social development represents a basic instrument for peacebuilding,

Guided by the outcome of the 2005 World Summit,[2] which stressed the correlation between development, human rights and peace, as no element can be realized without the others,

Guided also by the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict[3] in which he calls for enhancement of the conflict management capacity of regional commissions, strengthening regional capacity in peacebuilding and creating employment opportunities, and building the capacity of the public sector and its institutions,

Recalling Commission resolutions 282 (XXV) of 29 May 2008 and 271 (XXIV) of 11 May 2006 on mitigating the impact on development of conflict, occupation and instability in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia region and strengthening the role of the Commission in that regard,

Noting the recommendation of the Technical Committee[4] at its third meeting on the establishment at the Commission of a governmental committee on emerging issues and development in conflict settings, and the outcome of the consultations held between the secretariat and member countries participating in the working group charged with studying the issue,

Noting also peacebuilding efforts exerted by the Commission through its programmes to mitigate the impact on development of conflict and occupation, and build the capacity of member countries to address the challenges stemming from conflict, emerging issues and instability,

1. *Declares* its commitment to the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and its support to the efforts of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian

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[2] General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[3] A/63/881-S/2009/304.

[4] ESCWA, *Report of the Technical Commission on its Third Meeting*, Beirut, 21-22 July 2009 (E/ESCWA/2009/TC.3/6).

Authority towards the establishment of an independent State of Palestine, based on United Nations resolutions; its condemnation of the Israeli actions that violate the rights of Palestinians, including changing the demography of the occupied city of Jerusalem; imposing a siege on Gaza; building the annexation and expansion wall on Palestinian territory; and obstructing efforts to achieve development and build Palestinian institutions;

2. *Calls upon* member countries:

(a) To continue to seek the achievement of peace and stability in the region and remedy the root causes of conflict within a framework of economic and social development programmes;

(b) To enhance development efforts, in particular in countries affected by conflict and occupation, in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals;

(c) To promote public sector institutional capacity-building efforts in view of the contribution of such efforts to addressing emerging issues and conflict, developing regional cooperation and coordination in that area;

(d) To intensify efforts to monitor and analyse potential sources of conflict and develop plans and programmes to address them;

(e) To formulate policies, programmes and strategies at the national and regional level with a view to addressing the repercussions of conflict and instability in member countries, preventing potential conflict and addressing the roots of such conflict and instability;

(f) To contribute to the mobilization of financial and human resources to support development efforts in situations of instability and foster preparedness of member countries to address potential future conflict;

3. *Decides* to establish a committee on emerging issues and development in conflict settings comprising member country representatives with functions and mandates to be determined after further consultation with member countries;

4. *Requests* the secretariat:

(a) To provide the necessary support for subprogramme 7 of the Commission in terms of financial and human resources and upgrade the section responsible for its implementation to the level of a division similar to other subprogrammes of the Commission, with a view to meeting the needs of member countries and intensifying its activities in the following areas:

(i) **Emerging issues**: monitoring and analysing emerging issues and presenting recommendations, proposals and practical programmes to deal with them;

(ii) **Development in situations of conflict and instability**: designing and implementing programmes, projects and activities aimed at mitigating the repercussions of conflict and instability, and contributing to peacebuilding;

(iii) **Development in the least developed countries**: defining and meeting institutional needs in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals;

(iv) **Development of public sector institutions**: designing and implementing projects and programmes for institutional development in member countries in

all planning and management areas with a view to enabling them to address present and potential future crises and challenges;

(b) To provide organizational and technical support to the committee on emerging issues and development in conflict settings;

(c) To promote the effective participation of the Commission and member countries in regional and international events and forums relating to conflict and emerging issues;

(d) To promote cooperation with international and regional organizations in the field of peacebuilding and development in conflict settings, build the institutional capacity of member countries, and design programmes and policies pursuant to international recommendations on development in conflict settings;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to follow up on the implementation of the present resolution and submit a report on progress achieved in that regard to the Commission at its twenty-seventh session.

Upgrading the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Centre for Women to the level of a division and follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the Arab countries after fifteen years: Beijing+15[5]

3. At its twenty-sixth session, held in Beirut from 17 to 20 May 2010, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia approved the following draft resolution for adoption by the Council.

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia at its twenty-sixth session, held in Beirut from 17 to 20 May 2010, of the resolution on upgrading the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Centre for Women to the level of a division and follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the Arab countries after fifteen years: Beijing+15,

1. *Endorses* the resolution on upgrading the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Centre for Women to the level of a division and follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the Arab countries after fifteen years: Beijing+15, as set out in the annex to the present resolution.

Annex

Upgrading the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Centre for Women to the level of a division and follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the Arab countries after fifteen years: Beijing+15

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

[5] A statement of programme budget implications will be submitted by the Secretariat for the Council's consideration of the present draft resolution.

Recalling the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[6] the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty-first Century",[7] the Declaration of the Commission on the Status of Women on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the fourth World Conference on Women[8] and the resolutions of the Arab Regional Conference Ten Years after Beijing: Call for Peace,[9]

Recalling also the Millennium Development Goals,[10] in particular Goal 3 on promoting gender equality and empowering women, and its relevance to combating poverty and stimulating sustainable development,

Guided by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[11] and reaffirming General Assembly resolutions 62/218 of 12 February 2008 and 60/230 of 23 December 2005 on the Convention and all other relevant international resolutions,

Recalling that the Commission on the Status of Women reaffirmed the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which stressed the importance of the role assumed by the United Nations regional commissions in coordinating between member countries in order to harmonize positions and enable the national machineries for the advancement of women to contribute effectively to accelerating the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and all relevant follow-up activities,

Recalling also its resolution 240 (XXII) of 17 April 2003 on the establishment within the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia of a committee on women and a centre for women at the Commission, to act as the secretariat of the committee,

Noting the international efforts and the bases established by General Assembly resolution 63/311 of 2 October 2009 on system-wide coherence, which called for strengthening institutional arrangements in support of gender equality and the empowerment of women through all United Nations entities concerned with the advancement of women, bearing in mind the expected impact of the resolution on the role and mandates of the centres and divisions for the advancement of women at the regional commissions,

Taking into account the recommendation of the Committee on Women at its third session, held in Abu Dhabi from 14 to 15 March 2007, which requested the Commission to undertake a central role in increasing cooperation, integration and exchange of expertise among member countries and providing support for building the institutional and human capacity of national machineries for the advancement of women, in cooperation and coordination with the United Nations Development Fund

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[6] United Nations, *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women*, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20/Rev.1), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[7] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[8] United Nations, *Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its Forty-ninth Session*, New York, 28 February-11 and 22 March 2005 (E/2005/27-E/CN.6/2005/11), chap. I.

[9] ESCWA, *Report of the Arab Regional Conference Ten Years After Beijing: Call for Peace*, Beirut, 8-10 July 2004 (E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/6), chap. I.

[10] See www.un.org/millenniumgoals.

[11] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

for Women, the League of Arab States, the Arab Women Organization and the Center for Arab Women Training and Research,

Noting the efforts exerted by the Commission for the empowerment of women through building the capacity of national machineries for the advancement of women to integrate women into national policies and implement international conventions and other relevant international resolutions, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

1. *Calls upon* member countries to adopt the resolution on the follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the Arab countries after fifteen years: Beijing+15, which was adopted by the Committee on Women at its fourth session, held in Beirut from 21 to 23 October 2009, and the outcome of the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women;[12]

2. *Requests* member countries to adopt the recommendation made by the Committee on Women at its fourth session on supporting the Centre for Women with additional human resources in order to upgrade it to the level of a division, similar to other divisions of the Commission, with the aim of increasing its efforts in assisting member countries in the area of empowerment of women;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to complete administrative procedures related to the upgrading of the Centre for Women to the level of a division;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit to the Commission at its twenty-seventh session a report on progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.

Establishment of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Technology Centre

4. At its twenty-sixth session, held in Beirut from 17 to 20 May 2010, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia approved the following draft resolution for adoption by the Council.

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia at its twenty-sixth session, held in Beirut from 17 to 20 May 2010, of the resolution on the establishment of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Technology Centre and the statute of the Centre, as set out in annexes I and II to the present resolution,

1. *Endorses* the resolution on the establishment of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Technology Centre and the statute of the Centre, as set out in annexes I and II to the present resolution.

[12] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 27* (E/2010/27-E/CN.6/2010/11).

Annex I

Establishment of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Technology Centre

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[13] Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/68 of 5 November 2004 and the Millennium Declaration,[14] which identified the promotion of science and technology as a United Nations priority,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 64/222 of 21 December 2009 adopting the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,[15] which emphasized the need to promote, including through South-South cooperation, access to and the transfer of technology,

Further recalling its resolution 284 (XXV) of 29 May 2008, which approved the establishment of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Technology Centre for Development,

Expressing its appreciation to Jordan for its offer to host the Centre, and noting that resources for the centre should come from the following sources:

(a) Support from the host country;

(b) Support from the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia;

(c) Income received by the Centre for services provided to beneficiaries;

(d) Any other funding sources approved by the board of governors.

1. *Adopts* the statute of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Technology Centre, in accordance with the present resolution, as the basis for its operations;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take all necessary steps for the prompt establishment of the Centre, including the conclusion of a headquarters agreement between the host country and the United Nations;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to establish the first founding board of governors by soliciting nominations from member countries;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its twenty-seventh session on the implementation of this resolution, including the initial operating phase of the Centre, and the achievements of the Commission in that regard.

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[13] General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[14] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[15] General Assembly resolution 64/222.

Annex II

Draft statute of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Technology Centre

Establishment

1. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Technology Centre shall be established in accordance with the following terms and conditions.

Mission

2. The mission of the Centre is to assist members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and public and private organizations to acquire the tools and capabilities necessary to accelerate socio-economic development in order to attain technological parity with other nations and regions of the world, and to contribute to convert the economies of member countries into economies based on scientific and technological knowledge.

Objectives

3. The objectives of the Centre are to assist the members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia by strengthening their capabilities to develop and manage national systems; develop, transfer, adapt and apply technology; determine the suitable technology for the region and facilitate its development and improve the legal and commercial framework for the transfer of technology. The Centre also aims at enhancing the technological and scientific knowledge content of major economic sectors in member countries.

Functions

4. The Centre will achieve the above objectives by undertaking such functions as:

(a) Conducting research and analysis of trends, conditions and opportunities;

(b) Providing advisory services;

(c) Disseminating information and promoting good practices;

(d) Developing partnerships and other networks with regional and international organizations and key stakeholders;

(e) Training national personnel, particularly scientists and policy analysts;

(f) Assessing the scientific and technological level and content of production and service sectors and measuring performance indicators of those sectors in the localization of scientific and technological knowledge.

Status and organization

5. The Centre shall have a Board of Governors (herein referred to as "the Board"), an Executive Director and staff, and a Technical Committee.

6. The Centre shall be located in Amman, Jordan. A host country agreement shall be concluded between the Government of Jordan and the United Nations.

7. The activities of the Centre shall be in line with relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission. The Centre shall be subject to the Financial and Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and applicable administrative instructions and issuances.

Board of Governors

8. The Centre shall have a Board of Governors consisting of a standing representative designated by the Government of Jordan, and no fewer than six additional representatives nominated by the other members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and elected by the Commission. The representatives who are elected by the Commission shall be elected for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-election one more time only. If a representative is unable to serve for the full term, the vacancy shall be filled by the Government of that representative. The Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia or his/her representative shall attend meetings of the Board but shall not have the right to vote.

9. During the two-year establishment period, a Board of Governors will be constituted comprising representatives of all member countries who so wish.

10. The Executive Director of the Centre shall serve as secretary of the Board of Governors and, in such capacity, shall keep and circulate minutes of Board meetings to its members.

11. Representatives of (a) any State Member of the United Nations, (b) United Nations bodies and specialized and related agencies, and (c) such other organizations as the Board may deem appropriate as well as experts in fields of interest to the Board may, at the Board's discretion, be invited to attend Board meetings.

12. The Board shall meet at least once a year and shall adopt its own rules of procedure. Sessions of the Board shall be convened by the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, who may propose special sessions of the Board at his/her own initiative and shall convene such special sessions at the request of a majority of Board members.

13. A quorum for Board meetings shall be a majority of its members.

14. Each member of the Board shall have one vote. Decisions and recommendations of the Board shall be made by consensus or, where this is not possible, by a majority of the members present and voting. For the purposes of these rules, the phrase "members present and voting" means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members who abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

15. The Board shall, at each regular session, elect a chair and vice-chair. The chair and the vice-chair shall hold office until the next regular session of the Board. The chair or, in his/her absence, the vice-chair shall preside at Board meetings. If the chair is unable to serve for the full session for which he/she has been elected, the vice-chair shall act as chair for the remainder of that session.

16. The Board shall review the administration and financial status of the Centre and the implementation of its programme of work. The Executive Secretary

of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia shall submit an annual report as adopted by the Board to the Commission at its regular sessions.

Executive Director and staff

17. The Centre shall have an Executive Director and such additional staff as are appointed by the Secretary-General in accordance with United Nations regulations, rules and administrative instructions. The Executive Director and additional staff shall have the status of Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia staff members.

18. The Executive Director shall be responsible to the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia for the administration of the Centre and the implementation of its programme of work.

Technical Committee

19. The Centre shall have a Technical Committee consisting of experts from members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Members of the technical committee shall be appointed by the Executive Director in consultation with the Executive Secretary of the Commission.

20. The Technical Committee shall be responsible for advising the Executive Director on the formulation of the programme of work and on other technical matters concerning the Centre's operations.

21. Reports of meetings of the Technical Committee, and the Executive Director's observations thereon, shall be submitted to the Board at its next session.

22. The chair at each meeting of the Technical Committee shall be elected by the majority vote of those members of the Technical Committee present and voting.

Resources of the Centre

23. The Centre shall be financed from the following sources:

(a) Support from the host country;

(b) Support from the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia;

(c) Income received by the Centre for services provided to beneficiaries;

(d) Any other funding sources approved by the Board of Governors.

24. The Centre will endeavour to mobilize sufficient resources to support its activities in addition to those received from the host country pursuant to the agreement signed between the host country and the United Nations.

25. The United Nations shall maintain separate trust funds for donations for technical cooperation projects or other special contributions for activities of the Centre.

26. The financial resources of the Centre shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

Amendments

27. Amendments to the present statute shall be adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

28. In the event of any procedural matter arising that is not covered by the present statute or rules of procedure adopted by the Board of Governors, the pertinent part of the terms of reference and rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia shall apply.

Entry into force

29. The present statute shall enter into force on the date of its adoption by the Commission.

II. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

A. Economic Commission for Africa

5. At the third session of the Joint Annual Meetings of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the African Union Conference of Ministers of the Economy and Finance, held in Lilongwe, Malawi, on 29 and 30 March 2010, the Commission approved a ministerial statement and several resolutions, which are hereunder brought to the attention of the Council.

Summary of the Ministerial Statement, 30 March 2010, Lilongwe, Malawi

6. The African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development acknowledged that the theme of the third joint conference, "Promoting high-level sustainable growth to reduce unemployment and poverty", was both timely and pertinent. The Ministers noted that 10 years since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration, progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in Africa had been mixed. They recognized that without strong policy responses, including those aimed at achieving food security and reducing unemployment, the continent would not achieve most of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

7. The Ministers noted the importance of development planning and the need for their countries to adopt and implement well-articulated and coherent plans to promote economic transformation and foster economic and social development. In that regard, the Ministers saluted the laudable efforts that had been made to fully reposition the African Institute of Economic Planning (IDEP) as an apex African capacity development institution for economic management and development planning, and requested the Institute to continue to provide support to African countries in order to strengthen capacity in development planning.

Assessment of progress on regional integration in Africa

8. The Ministers encouraged member States to mainstream the Minimum Integration Programme into their national development programmes and, in that regard, called upon the African Union, the regional economic communities, ECA, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and development partners to scale up their

support for the implementation of the Minimum Integration Programme and domestication of regional integration instruments into national policy, legal and regulatory frameworks. They further encouraged member States to continue to support ECA, the African Union Commission and AfDB in publishing the report entitled *Assessing Regional Integration in Africa (ARIA)*, which contains a comprehensive analysis and assessment of progress in regional integration on the continent. The Ministers commended the work of the ECA African Trade Policy Centre, invited member States to take up the opportunities offered by the Centre in their preparations on international trade negotiations and the promotion of intra-African trade, and called upon member States and development partners to continue to provide support for its work with a view to strengthening its capacity to support the trade agenda on the continent. They also urged member States to prioritize and upscale investments in infrastructure, including through the utilization of innovative financing mechanisms, channelling of remittances and increasing domestic resource mobilization and harnessing the potential of private-public partnerships.

Review of progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa

9. The Conference of Ministers called upon African countries to: strengthen their statistical systems and institutions and implement the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa; explore innovative ways of mobilizing funds to support Millennium Development Goals-related programmes and activities; and support the Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa. It called upon development partners to fulfil their official development assistance commitments to enable Africa to meet the Millennium Development Goals by the target date. The Conference invited the Group of African States at United Nations Headquarters to support and promote the adopted African position on the Millennium Development Goals during the preparatory process of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly and the Meeting itself, and requested the African Union Commission, in close collaboration with ECA and AfDB, to begin reflections on the period beyond 2015.

Africa Regional Review of the Implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

10. The Conference of Ministers welcomed and endorsed the outcome of the Africa Regional Preparatory meeting for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, adopted on 9 March 2010. It called for a renewed and strengthened global partnership for the development of the least developed countries and invited African least developed countries to remain fully engaged in the preparatory process for the Conference. It also called upon development partners to make financial contributions to the Trust Fund for the Least Developed Countries to support the participation of African least developed countries in the conference and its preparatory activities.

Climate change and development in Africa

11. The Conference of Ministers appreciated the notable support provided by development partners for the implementation of the Climate for Development in Africa Programme and its African Climate Policy Centre, and called upon them to continue their support to these key initiatives. It requested ECA to continue to work

closely with the African Union Commission, the AfDB and other organizations in strengthening the capacity of member States and their intergovernmental organizations to address climate-related issues, including by providing technical support to African countries in the ongoing negotiations for a new international climate change regime.

Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa and implementation of the African Charter on Statistics

12. The Conference of Ministers commended countries that have signed and ratified the African Charter on Statistics and called upon those which had not done so to sign and ratify it as expeditiously as possible. It adopted the draft Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa as well as its first pillar, the African Strategy for the Implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts, and recommended them for adoption by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in July 2010. The Conference called upon member States, the regional economic communities, the African Union Commission, ECA and AfDB and their partners to support and implement these initiatives and develop the other pillars of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa.

Promoting high-level sustainable growth to reduce unemployment in Africa

13. The Conference of Ministers reaffirmed that the global financial and economic crises posed challenges to Africa's growth and development, including their adverse impact on employment and poverty eradication. It called upon African countries to enhance the role of counter-cyclical fiscal policies that focus on expanding infrastructure, and human capital formation and development, as well as the provision of social services as mechanisms for job creation in the short run.

14. The Ministers encouraged African Governments to design and implement effective employment-generating growth strategies through employment mainstreaming and employment targeting based on accurate and timely employment data that are regularly collected and analysed and requested Africa's development partners to fulfil their commitments to increase official development assistance and take measures to encourage foreign direct investment flows, including by providing technical assistance to African countries in achieving the strategies, policies and measures recommended above.

Proposed Economic Commission for Africa strategic framework/biennial programme plan for the biennium 2012-2013 and Business Plan 2010-2012

15. The Conference of Ministers endorsed the proposed strategic framework/ biennal programme plan for the biennium 2012-2013 and the Business Plan 2010-2012.

Strengthening the subregional offices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

16. The Conference of Ministers commended the Executive Secretary for commissioning an independent evaluation of the subregional offices with a view to assessing the implementation of the Secretary-General's comprehensive plan of action on strengthening the subregional offices. It endorsed the recommendations of the independent external evaluation of the subregional offices of ECA and

reaffirmed the need for the subregional offices to strengthen collaboration with the regional economic communities, the African Union Commission and its New Partnership for Africa's Development programme. It called on donors and ECAs partners, to provide adequate financial resources to enhance programme delivery towards the achievement of tangible results in the field and commended the United Nations Secretary-General for the efforts made to strengthen the subregional offices of the Commission.

Repositioning of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

17. The Conference of Ministers commended the Governing Council of the Institute and the new management for successfully piloting the repositioning exercise and bringing it to a satisfactory conclusion on the basis of a long-term vision, which it endorsed. The Ministers further endorsed the request made by the IDEP Governing Council for a significant increase in the United Nations annual grant to the Institute, and called upon the Group of African States at United Nations Headquarters to work towards that end.

Establishment of African financial institutions

18. The Conference of Ministers commended the countries hosting the African Central Bank (Nigeria) and the African Monetary Fund (Cameroon) for the remarkable efforts they had made towards the establishment and operation of the steering committees responsible for the preparatory work of establishing both institutions. It invited member States of the African Union to speed up the signing and ratification of the Protocol and the Statute of the African Investment Bank so that it could quickly begin its operations as a development finance institution. The Conference of Ministers encouraged member States, the regional economic communities, ECA, AfDB and African Central Banks to extend their support to the aforementioned steering committees in the discharge of the task entrusted to them.

Towards realizing a food-secure Africa

19. The Ministers reiterated their commitment to enhance investment in agriculture to realize its potential, particularly to accelerate the implementation of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme and the Maputo Declaration of 2003; fully supported the vision of a food-secure Africa within five years and committed to its realization through supporting strategies and measures that would provide incentives, including targeted subsidies to small-scale farmers and market stabilization measures as well as mainstreaming food security in all sectoral policies and programmes; and recognized the need to accelerate land reforms in their countries in order to ensure equitable access and security of tenure, especially for smallholders and women.

20. They supported the promotion of full and decent employment in the agricultural sector coupled with balanced pricing mechanisms within value chains to ensure that African farmers would get a fair share of the market, including fair prices for their products, and called upon African countries and their development partners to deposit the necessary instruments of commitment with the African Development Bank for a speedy operationalization of the Africa Fertilizer Mechanism.

Initiatives for Africa's development

21. The Ministers welcomed and took note of the proposed "Invest Africa" initiative to be convened by Egypt in collaboration with the African Union Commission in 2011, aimed at attracting investments, especially for closing infrastructure gaps in Africa. They also welcomed and took note of other proposed initiatives to help Africa to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and promote high sustainable growth rates: "Educate Africa", to help to modernize education systems in Africa; "Train Africa", to promote vocational education systems and help close a significant supply-demand mismatch in Africa's labour markets; and "Voice Africa", to help increase Africa's voice and representation in international bodies and forums, main country groups, and in promoting African interests in formulating global economic policies.

B. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

22. At its sixty-sixth session held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 13 to 19 May 2010, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) approved a number of resolutions which are hereunder brought to the attention of the Council.

Incheon Declaration

23. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific adopted the Incheon Declaration, in which members and associate members of ESCAP, among other things:

(a) Took note of the report entitled *Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in an Era of Global Uncertainty: Asia-Pacific Regional Report 2009/10*;[16]

(b) Emphasized the importance of the bottom-up, comprehensive, multisectoral approach to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and the need for stronger regional cooperation;

(c) Noted that the recent financial and economic crisis and the highly volatile fuel prices, the food crisis and climate change had threatened progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

(d) Expressed the conviction that green growth is one of the elements that creates synergies in the pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals, and their intention to strengthen their efforts to pursue green growth strategies and introduce policies, legislation and incentives encouraging companies to pursue the greening of existing business, and to strengthen bilateral and regional cooperation by building partnerships for capacity-building, technical assistance and the replication of best practices in promoting green growth;

(e) Welcomed the timely initiative of the Government of Indonesia to host the Special Ministerial Meeting for the Review of the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: Run Up to 2015 in Jakarta on 3 and 4 August 2010, and requested the Executive Secretary to contribute inputs and report the results of the Special Ministerial Meeting to the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General

[16] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.II.F.10.

Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on accelerating progress towards the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Five-Year Review of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

24. The Commission commended the Executive Secretary for advancing the implementation and review of the Mauritius Strategy; commended the Pacific small island developing States and their partners for their efforts in successfully carrying out the Pacific High-level Dialogue on the Mauritius Strategy; invited members to support the Port Vila Outcome Statement; and requested the Executive Secretary to ensure that the activities of the Commission take into account the special needs of the Pacific small island developing States.

Implementation of the Dhaka Outcome Document on the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries

25. The Commission invited the countries of the region and international and regional organizations to urgently consider the implementation, as appropriate, of the recommendations contained in the Dhaka Outcome Document.[17]

26. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to assist Asia-Pacific least developed countries in forwarding the Dhaka Outcome Document as the Asia-Pacific regional input to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in Istanbul, in 2011, and to continue to assist Asia-Pacific least developed countries in implementing the recommendations of the Dhaka Outcome Document.

Implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Transport Development in Asia

27. The Commission expressed its resolve to support increased regional economic integration in an effective manner; and requested the Executive Secretary to continue to accord priority to the implementation of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific[18] and the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2007-2011).[19]

Implementation of the Jakarta Declaration on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific

28. The Commission reiterated its commitments on the implementation of the Seoul Declaration on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific;[20] invited members and associate members to review and assess their public-private partnership, sectoral and other relevant policy frameworks and action plans for infrastructure development; encouraged members and associate members to actively engage in regional cooperation initiatives; and requested the

[17] E/ESCAP/66/6.
[18] E/ESCAP/63/3, chap. V.
[19] ESCAP resolution 63/9, annex.
[20] ESCAP resolution 64/4.

Executive Secretary to assist members and associate members in meeting the challenges of infrastructure development.

Improving road safety in Asia and the Pacific

29. The Commission encouraged members and associate members to implement General Assembly resolution 64/255 on improving global road safety; reaffirmed the importance of addressing global road safety issues; invited all member States to set their own national road traffic casualty reduction targets to be achieved by the end of the Decade and to consider providing adequate and additional funding for activities relating to the Decade.

Pacific Urban Agenda

30. The Commission, among other things, requested the Executive Secretary to continue to support Pacific members and associate members in implementing the Pacific Urban Agenda and Regional Action Framework in collaboration with regional and development partners; to support them in assessing progress in implementing the Pacific Urban Agenda; and to convene a subregional workshop in the biennium 2010-2011.

Review of the proposal for the establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management in the Islamic Republic of Iran

31. The Commission invited the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide the Commission with supplementary information, and requested the Executive Secretary to provide the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran with technical assistance, if requested, in the review of the operational details of the proposal.

Full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and its regional and global outcomes in the Asia-Pacific region

32. The Commission reaffirmed the important role of the Commission in supporting the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. It called upon all members and associate members to take further action to ensure the full and effective implementation of the commitments reflected in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the Millennium Declaration and the Bangkok Declaration on Beijing+15,[21] and requested the Executive Secretary to strengthen the role of the Commission in supporting members and associate members in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action, as well as the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and to take actions set out in the Bangkok Declaration on Beijing+15.

[21] E/ESCAP/66/14 and Corr.1, chap. I.

Regional call for action to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support in Asia and the Pacific

33. The Commission called upon all members and associate members to accelerate the implementation of the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS adopted by the General Assembly at its sixtieth session,[22] and requested the Executive Secretary to support members and associate members in the implementation of the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS and in reaching the Millennium Development Goal target.

Regional preparations for the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012

34. The Commission decided that the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, would be held in the Republic of Korea in 2012. It called upon all members and associate members and key stakeholders to actively contribute to the preparatory process leading up to, as well as to participate in, the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting; and requested the Executive Secretary to encourage the participation of all key stakeholders in the preparatory process leading up to the Meeting.

Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference

35. The Commission called upon countries in the Asian and Pacific region to commit themselves to fully implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and requested the Executive Secretary to convene the sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference in Bangkok in 2012.

Strengthening regional cooperation in North and Central Asia

36. The Commission encouraged donor Governments and agencies, regional and international financial institutions, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to strengthen cooperation with and assist countries in the Central Asian subregion with their development programmes to enable them to integrate effectively into the regional and global economies. It requested the Executive Secretary to ensure that the priority areas identified by the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on the New ESCAP Subregional Offices for East and North-East Asia, North and Central Asia, and South and South-West Asia were fully supported through the proposed programme budget of the secretariat for the biennium 2012-2013 and that adequate resources were provided for that purpose.

Continuation of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development

37. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for its offer to continue to provide financial support to the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for

[22] Resolution 60/262, annex.

Development and to serve as its host country. The Commission decided that the Centre should continue to operate beyond 2011 as a subsidiary body of the Commission, and requested the Executive Secretary to take all steps necessary for the implementation of the resolution.

Strengthening of the evaluation function of the secretariat of the Commission

38. The Commission commended the Executive Secretary for her commitment to continuing to strengthen the evaluation function of the secretariat.

C. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

39. At its thirty-third session, held in Brasilia from 30 May to 1 June 2010, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) approved a number of resolutions, some of which are hereunder brought to the attention of the Council.

South-South cooperation

40. The Commission requested the secretariat, among other things, to continue to analyse new alternatives for generating the volume of resources necessary for financing the development of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean; develop a broader set of indicators to reflect the particular realities in the countries and support the identification of their main needs so that classification as a middle-income country ceases to be an a priori impediment to participating in official development assistance; and initiate a process aimed at strengthening the capacity of institutions responsible for international cooperation in countries that so request.

Programme of work of the Economic Commission for the biennium 2012-2013

41. The Commission adopted the programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013, including the creation of a new subprogramme on financing for development. It welcomed the inclusion in the Commission's programme of work of the new subprogramme on financing for development, which focuses on broadening the opportunities offered by the countries' domestic financial architecture, strengthening integration and financial cooperation at the regional level, including access to financial markets and official development assistance, and building the capabilities of the region's countries to participate in the debate on reform of the international financial architecture.

Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

42. The Commission expressed its satisfaction at the increasing consolidation of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as the intergovernmental body that coordinates international statistical activities in Latin America and the Caribbean and fosters the strengthening of national statistical offices and national statistical systems; expressed the wish that the Governments of the region would strengthen awareness-raising regarding the need to develop technically independent, impartial and objective national statistical systems and, accordingly, take measures to provide the necessary resources and consolidate a suitable legal and institutional framework;

and welcomed the decision of the Conference to move forward with the preparation of a draft code of good statistical practices for Latin America and the Caribbean to serve as an instrument for enhancing the quality and credibility of official statistics and fostering society's confidence in national statistical systems and the statistics and indictors they produce and disseminate.

Brasilia resolution

43. The Commission welcomed the comprehensive approach to development that has marked the thinking of ECLAC since its inception, as reflected in the document entitled "Time for equality: closing gaps, opening trails".[23] It recognized the relevance of the issues examined and supported the general tenor of the document's conclusions. It called upon the Executive Secretary to widely disseminate the document and promote its review in the economic, academic, political, business and social spheres in the region in order to continue to foster more in-depth comparative analysis vis-à-vis countries outside the region.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean calendar of conferences for the period 2010-2012

44. The Commission reaffirmed the decision to maintain the current intergovernmental structure and the existing pattern of meetings and approved the calendar of conferences of the Commission. It reaffirmed further the importance of continuing to entrust the Commission with the task of organizing and holding regional and subregional meetings to prepare for and follow up on world conferences of the United Nations in the economic and social fields, and requested the Executive Secretary to submit to the relevant United Nations bodies such proposals as might be necessary to ensure the implementation of the calendar of conferences as approved.

Support for the work of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning

45. The Commission reiterated the recommendation that the Institute should strengthen its capacity as the body responsible for training within the system of ECLAC and should broaden the activities it conducts in that area, in collaboration with the subregional headquarters, divisions of the Commission and other international institutions. It requested the Executive Secretary to continue to support its work with human and financial resources.

Follow-up to the Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean

46. The Commission requested the secretariat to provide support to the countries of the region for the fulfilment of the goals of the Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2010) by furnishing technical cooperation, carrying out studies and collaborating in the organization of meetings to the extent of its capabilities and competence. It also requested the secretariat to provide technical support to the Presiding Officers of the eLAC2010 Regional Follow-up Mechanism; provide technical support for the organization of the

[23] LC/G.2432(SES.33/3).

preparatory meeting for the third Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Montevideo in September 2010, and of the forthcoming Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Lima in November 2010.

Activities of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in relation to follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals and implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

47. The Commission requested the secretariat to continue to cooperate with the countries of the region in the implementation and follow-up of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, including the 2005 World Summit Outcome. It also requested the secretariat to continue to coordinate the preparation of annual regional inter-agency reports on the progress made towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in the framework of the Regional Coordination Mechanism established pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/46.

Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee

48. The Commission took note of the report of the twenty-third session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee and of the fourteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee. It called upon the Executive Secretary to employ all measures necessary to ensure the full implementation of the decisions and resolutions contained in the report of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee and the recommendations of the fourteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee.

Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

49. The Commission emphasized the importance of consideration of population and development issues in the proposal of ECLAC contained in the document entitled "Time for equality: closing gaps, opening trails",[23] as well as in national public policies.

Regional conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean

50. The Commission welcomed the progress made since the adoption of the Quito Consensus at the tenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;[24] welcomed the review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly in Latin American and Caribbean countries; congratulated the relevant entities on the creation of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, in fulfilment of the Quito Consensus; and urged active participation in the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be held in Brasilia, from 13 to 16 July 2010.

[24] See LC/G.2361(CRM.10/8).

D. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

51. At its twenty-sixth session, held in Beirut from 17 to 20 May 2010, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) adopted a number of resolutions, some of which are hereunder brought to the attention of the Council.

Guiding Declaration of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on Giving Greater Attention to Youth Policies: An Opportunity for Development

52. Member countries of ESCWA renewed their commitments to the World Programme of Action for Youth[25] through a number of concrete measures, including the development of national youth policies and involving youth in the formulation of such policies, as well as improved national coordination on youth-related policies.

53. They also stressed the importance of ESCWA continuing to assume its role as a regional hub in the following areas: (a) strengthening the national capacity of ESCWA member countries in the formulation of national policies and strategies targeting youth; (b) activating and expanding the role of national coordination mechanisms; (c) preparing periodical regional reports on developments; (d) enhancing the role of national statistical offices in ESCWA member countries; (e) exchanging expertise between the countries of the ESCWA region; (f) adopting youth policies as a principal theme during the forthcoming meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism in 2010; and (g) enhancing cooperation and coordination between ESCWA, the League of Arab States and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Enhancing public sector institutions and resources to attain national development goals

54. The Commission invited its member countries to: (a) continue public sector institutions and resource modernization and development; (b) build upon the successes achieved through implemented public sector development and modernization strategies; and (c) invest additional resources in meeting the requests of member countries for building the capacities of public sector workers.

55. The Commission requested the ESCWA secretariat to: (a) follow up successful public sector development initiatives taken by some member countries aiming at increasing progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals; (b) enhance institutional development programmes through strengthening analytical research, advisory services and training; (c) draw guidance from successful international and regional models; and (d) ensure that additional human and financial resources are made available for the required normative and operational work to devise public sector development and modernization programmes.

Arab Millennium Development Goals monitor for societal progress

56. The Commission called upon its member countries to enhance coordination between national statistical offices and implement national strategies for statistical development by: (a) defining priorities and developing a strategy to provide data for all indicators; (b) identifying ways to improve monitoring and reporting on

[25] General Assembly resolutions 56/81 of 14 December 1995 and 62/126 of 18 December 2007.

development indicators; and (c) ensuring that the supporting metadata comply with standard guidelines.

57. The Commission requested the ESCWA secretariat to develop a Millennium Development Goals monitor for societal progress towards the realization of the Goals by: (a) supporting ESCWA member countries, according to their needs and requirements; and (b) assessing the quality of national data and development indicators, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Social development

58. The Commission endorsed the change in the title of subprogramme 2 of the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2012-2013 from "Integrated social policies" to "Social development".

Adoption of the amendments introduced to the programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011

59. The Commission adopted the amendments introduced to the programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011, and requested the Executive Secretary to follow up on implementation of the programme of work, including activities to address any variables that might emerge in the ESCWA region.

Adoption of session reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

60. The Commission adopted the recommendations contained in the reports of its subsidiary bodies, and called upon its member countries to cooperate with the Commission in taking measures to ensure that those recommendations were implemented.

Adoption of the draft strategic framework for the biennium 2012-2013

61. The Commission adopted the draft strategic framework for the biennium 2012-2013.